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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. von WAGNER

(Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR VARNA

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of all the members of the Committee, expressed sympathy to the delegation of Norway in connection with the death of His Excellency Ambassador Varna, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

CONSIDERATION OF ALL DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS (continued) (A/C.1/48/L.9, L.10, L.17, L.19, L.27 and L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.40

2. Mr. O'SULLIVAN (Australia) introduced draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.40 (Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty), relating to agenda item 66, on behalf of its lead sponsors, Australia, Mexico and New Zealand.

3. Since the General Assembly had last considered the question, nuclear testing had been carried out only once, the Governments of the United States of America, France and the Russian Federation had continued the moratorium, and the nuclear-weapon States had made clear their willingness to negotiate a comprehensive ban on testing. The Conference on Disarmament had given its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to initiate negotiations for such a ban.

4. Under those circumstances, the lead sponsors had endeavoured to draft a resolution which could be supported by the entire international community; in the search for consensus, all parties concerned had been obliged to accept a compromise solution, which augured well for the start of the negotiations. He expressed appreciation to the sponsors, who numbered over 100, for their cooperation, which reflected the international community's desire to establish a legally binding instrument on the subject. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

5. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) said that the draft resolution under consideration differed from the General Assembly's previous resolutions in that it was consistent with the unanimous decision of the Conference on Disarmament to initiate negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty and would most likely be adopted without a vote, as the culmination of a process promoted by many delegations over a number of years, and as a result of changes in the position of some nuclear-weapon States. In order to consolidate those changes and to have them reflected in a political and legal agreement, the lead sponsors had agreed to amend the text adopted in previous years.

6. Mr. KEATING (New Zealand) said that the text of the draft resolution reflected the new climate stemming from the recognition, embodied in the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to initiate negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, that it was possible to contemplate the conclusion of a treaty which would enhance the security of all States without compromising the security interests of the nuclear-weapon States. The support

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(Mr. Keating, New Zealand)

of the Committee and the General Assembly for a comprehensive test-ban treaty had been of significant help in bringing about that favourable climate. In 1991 for the first time in nearly 20 years, a single draft resolution which had received overwhelming support from the General Assembly had been submitted to the First Committee.

7. In January 1993, the Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control of New Zealand had asked the Conference on Disarmament whether it was reasonable to expect that the resolution could be transformed into a treaty within a period of three years. The large number of sponsors of the current draft was a sign that the international community would fully support the Conference on Disarmament when negotiations began for an internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive test-ban treaty, and that the progress of those negotiations would be watched carefully. New Zealand hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote as a demonstration of the existence of the political will required to complete that work successfully.

8. Mr. TANAKA (Japan) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution; as Japan held the chairmanship of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, it had been involved in drafting the resolution from an early stage. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote and that the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty would commence smoothly and be given the priority which they required.

9. Mr. BERNHARDSEN (Norway) said that his country's commitment to nuclear disarmament and the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty was stronger than ever before. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus and would serve as a basis for rapid progress in the negotiations to be initiated by the Conference on Disarmament in 1994. In that connection, full advantage should be taken of the inter-sessional consultations conducted by Ambassador Tanaka of Japan, and the Conference on Disarmament should be given sufficient resources to carry out the negotiations effectively.

10. The nuclear-weapon States should refrain from further testing so as to create a propitious climate for the 1995 Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Norway believed that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty would be a crucial instrument, both for promoting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and for reducing the danger of nuclear contamination of the environment.

Draft resolutions A/C.1/48/L.17 and A/C.1/48/L.19

11. Mr. FOUATHIA (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced draft resolutions A/C.1/48/L.17 (Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes) and A/C.1/48/L.19 (Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa). The first draft related to agenda item 71 (d) and was based on previous General Assembly resolutions. The second draft related to agenda item 82 and was in keeping with the intention which the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity had solemnly declared in 1964 in the Cairo Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. It was to be hoped

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(Mr. Fouathia, Algeria)

that, as in previous years, the two draft resolutions would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.9

12. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) introduced draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.9 (Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water), relating to agenda item 65, on behalf of the sponsors, to which Bolivia and Gabon had been added. It should be noted that the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the partial test-ban Treaty had been observed on 5 August 1993; since the signing of that Treaty, intensive work had been carried out with a view to the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty.

13. That work had been embodied in a process known as the amendment conference, which had held its first substantive session in January 1991, and had reached full agreement in New York on 10 August 1993. At the same time, the Conference on Disarmament had decided to initiate negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. Accordingly, it was clear that all States, both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, were unanimous in their desire to conclude a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty. It was to be hoped that the draft resolution would receive the broadest possible support from the members of the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.27

14. Mrs. LONDOÑO JARAMILLO (Colombia) introduced draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.27 (International arms transfers), relating to agenda item 71 (h), on behalf of the sponsors, to which Spain had been added. The draft focused on illicit traffic in conventional weapons, which represented a serious problem for many States which were experiencing destabilizing situations. Terrorism, mercenaries and common crime had serious political, economic and social consequences, which affected the individual and collective well-being of whole societies.

15. There could be no doubt that a serious, systematic and universal study and discussion would increase the possibility of finding common solutions, adapted to national realities, which would promote international cooperation aimed at ending that plague. The draft resolution was in keeping with that aim; it appealed to the international community to become involved in the search for lasting solutions, and thus to shoulder its responsibilities in that area.

16. Lastly, she said that paragraph 4 of the Spanish version of the draft resolution should be amended to read, "considerare la inclusión de" in lieu of "examine la posibilidad de incluir".

Draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.10

17. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) introduced draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.10 (General and complete disarmament), relating to agenda item 71, concerning the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of vehicles for their delivery in all its aspects. The international community had already taken

(Mr. Marin Bosch, Mexico)

major steps in that direction, as shown by the adoption of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction which had been opened for signature in January 1993; discussions concerning the various aspects of the item had been held in the United Nations and other multilateral forums. Nevertheless, the international community had not yet been able to reach agreement on what steps to take to resolve that issue more broadly. The aim of the draft resolution was to place the First Committee in a better position to consider that topic.

18. Referring to the text of the draft, he said that the "representative intergovernmental group of experts" mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 consisted of States members and observers of the Conference on Disarmament and that the question could be considered between sessions of the conference on Disarmament; the draft resolution had no financial implications.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.